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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,763	01/09/2002	Janardhanan S. Ajit	41980/RJP/B600	7260

23363 7590 07/30/2003

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EXAMINER

CUNNINGHAM, TERRY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/043,763

Applicant(s)

AJIT, JANARDHANAN S.

Examiner

Terry D. Cunningham

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 10 February 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 24 June 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 5, line 6, there is no support in the specification for the "bias_mid" being provided to the "input element of the first semiconductor device". Applicant has stated that the "first semiconductor device" is transistor 1213 of Fig. 12A. However, as clearly seen "bias_mid" is coupled to the output of 1213, not the "input" of thereof. It is suggest the "an input" be changed to --another-- or --a current--. In lines 4-5, it is not understood however "V_{DDO}" can be provided "to a control electrode" when lines 2-3 state that V_{DDO} "is not present". It is suggested that "is not present" be changed to something such as --falls below a predetermined value--.

Claim 6 is rejected for the reasons discussed above with claim 5.

Examiner has considered Applicant's remarks for the above rejection and has not found them to be persuasive. Applicant argues that "transistor 1213 of Figure 12A provides explicit support for the recited element". However, this statement is not understood. Examiner contends

that Fig. 12A provides explicit support for the complete opposite. Firstly, the gate of transistor is generally referred to as the “input”. It is clear that this is not referring to the gate due to the language in lines 4-5. However, on occasion, the drain of an NMOS transistor (such as 1213) will be referred to as the “input”. Clearly, due to the polarity provided for transistor 1213, the source thereof is the electrode connected to Bias_Mid, not the drain. Examiner notes that Bias_Mid is being provided to the input or control electrode of 1217 (similarly as recited in claim 1), which is recited as the switch.

In claim 6, for proper antecedent, --the step of-- should be inserted following “wherein” or “a” in line 2 should be changed to --the--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited art to Bingham (USPN 4,617,473).

With respect to claims 1-3, Bingham discloses, in Figs. 1-3, a circuit that provides a method comprising: “accepting a voltage from a power supply input to the integrated circuit (16)”; “accepting a voltage (voltage at 14 provided to node 24)”; “accepting a pad voltage (provided to node 26) from an external voltage source (22)”; “comparing (36 and 56)”; “coupling (via 110) a bias voltage (at 30) to a gate of a PMOS device (132) when the power supply is below the predetermined value”; and “coupling (via 48) the pad voltage to a bias_mid node (30) to provide the bias voltage”.

With respect to claims 5-6, Bingham discloses, in Figs. 1-3, a circuit that provides a method comprising: “providing V_{DDO} (14) to a control electrode of a first semiconductor device (72)”; “providing bias_mid to an input electrode of the first semiconductor device (72) such that the first semiconductor device will turn off when V_{DDO} - bias_mid is less than the threshold of the first semiconductor device”; and “actuating a switch (48)”; in response to the turn off the first semiconductor device to couple Vpad to bias_mid”.

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

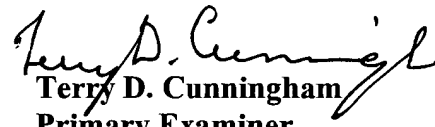
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terry Cunningham whose telephone number is 703-308-4872. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for Technology Center 2800 are 703-872-9318 for Before Final communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications. Please note, any faxed paper clearly stating **DRAFT** or **PROPOSED AMENDMENT** at the top will be forwarded directly to the Examiner. All others will be treated as a formal response and acted upon accordingly.

Art Unit: 2816

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

TC
July 14, 2003


Terry D. Cunningham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816